

MEMORIAL  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

PRAYING

*That the amount expended by that State in the suppression of Indian hostilities may be refunded.*

MAY 4, 1860.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, and ordered to be printed.

MEMORIAL from the State of California.

*To the honorable the Senate of the United States,  
in Congress assembled:*

Whereas the State of California has been called upon to protect her citizens from Indian depredations during the years 1850, 1851, 1852, 1854, and succeeding years, to January 1, 1860, and has incurred, in the suppression of Indian hostilities within her borders, a large indebtedness; and whereas the said State of California has expended the sum of \$650,000 in the suppression of Indian hostilities, and the said amount being a just claim against the general government, an appropriation of the amount named is respectfully asked, refunding to the State the amount so expended for the purposes named.

Pressing demands have been made for years past, by citizens of the State, for relief and protection. These demands were not responded to by the agents of the general government in military command in the State, as fully as the emergency required, from the fact that their forces were inadequate and their supplies and munitions insufficient. The State was therefore impelled to call out, arm, equip, and provision forces, at great expense, or suffer her unprotected citizens and the emigration to fall a sacrifice to the ruthless savage.

It was believed that this expense would be assumed and paid by the general government, established as this practice had formerly been by numerous precedents in history. Congressional legislation, in other cases of like character, has recognized and paid debts contracted in the prosecution of Indian wars by the States themselves, when obliged to undertake the duties of the nation in the suppression of these hostilities.

The emergency which made it necessary for the State to interpose her authority was such as rendered any delay hazardous. The distance of the authority of the general government from the scene of opera-

tions was so great, also, as rendered any application to the home government for assistance impracticable, so imminent was the danger and so immediate were the requirements of our people, exposed to the depredations of the several tribes of Indians, whose hostilities required a prompt and sudden check, or, emboldened by success at the outset, no limit could be made to the sacrifice of life and property which would follow.

The responsibilities thus incurred by the State must be met by the general government, as the State is unable to do more than she has done, by pledging her faith and credit to those who have performed services and furnished means for these objects.

This State has over 800 miles of frontier. The various Indian tribes that inhabit our border for that distance early commenced depredations upon our people. Inhabiting a mountainous country, and enabled to retreat to their fastnesses after acts of violence or theft, it was impossible to pursue them with success at the time, with a small force, when single instances occurred of the kind. It therefore became necessary to adopt means ample, and to raise a force sufficient to make a decided impression, and to convince them, by a summary process, of our strength and our determination that they should expiate their crimes.

Had the State delayed action until the general government could have been informed with regard to the necessity which existed, the result would have been disastrous to the defenseless frontier settlements.

The cost of supplies, transportation, &c., were procured by the State at as reasonable rates as they could have been by the general government.

A rigid and careful scrutiny has been exercised by the board of examiners (consisting of the comptroller, treasurer, and secretary of state) in the auditing of war claims and in the allowances made therefor. Still, vouchers, satisfactory proofs, and evidence of the authenticity of each was required; and in the settlement, the board (as required by law) endeavored to be guided by the "Rules and Regulations of the United States Army," prescribing the mode and manner of such settlements.